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homemakers' chat

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

THURSDAY, February 12, 1942

SUBJECT: "The 1942 Egg Supply." Information from Surplus Marketing officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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One day last week, you may remember, we talked about the probable supply of food in the United States during 1942. Today here is more food information from the United States Department of Agriculture, and this time it's about eggs in 1942.

As you may remember, the Government has asked farmers to reach the goal this year of nearly 4 and a quarter billion dozen eggs. That's a 13 percent increase over last year. It means for every 6 eggs hens laid last year, they'll lay 7 this year.

Now as a consumer, you would probably like to know what this will mean to you. Here's the story:

During 1940 the average consumption of eggs per person in the United States was 26 dozen. In other words, the average American ate 6 eggs a week. Of course, some people ate more than that, and others didn't eat that many, but the average was 6.

By looking at the numbers and not considering other factors, you might assume that since 7 eggs will be produced this year for every 6 last, there will be 7 eggs a week in 1942 for every American.

But that will not be the case. If farmers meet the egg production goals this year, this country will be able to export at least 4 times as many eggs as we did in 1941, and still have 6 eggs a week for every one in the United States.

There are other important needs to be considered. Food is an important implement of war. It has taken its place beside airplanes, tanks and guns.

Eggs are one of the very important war foods.

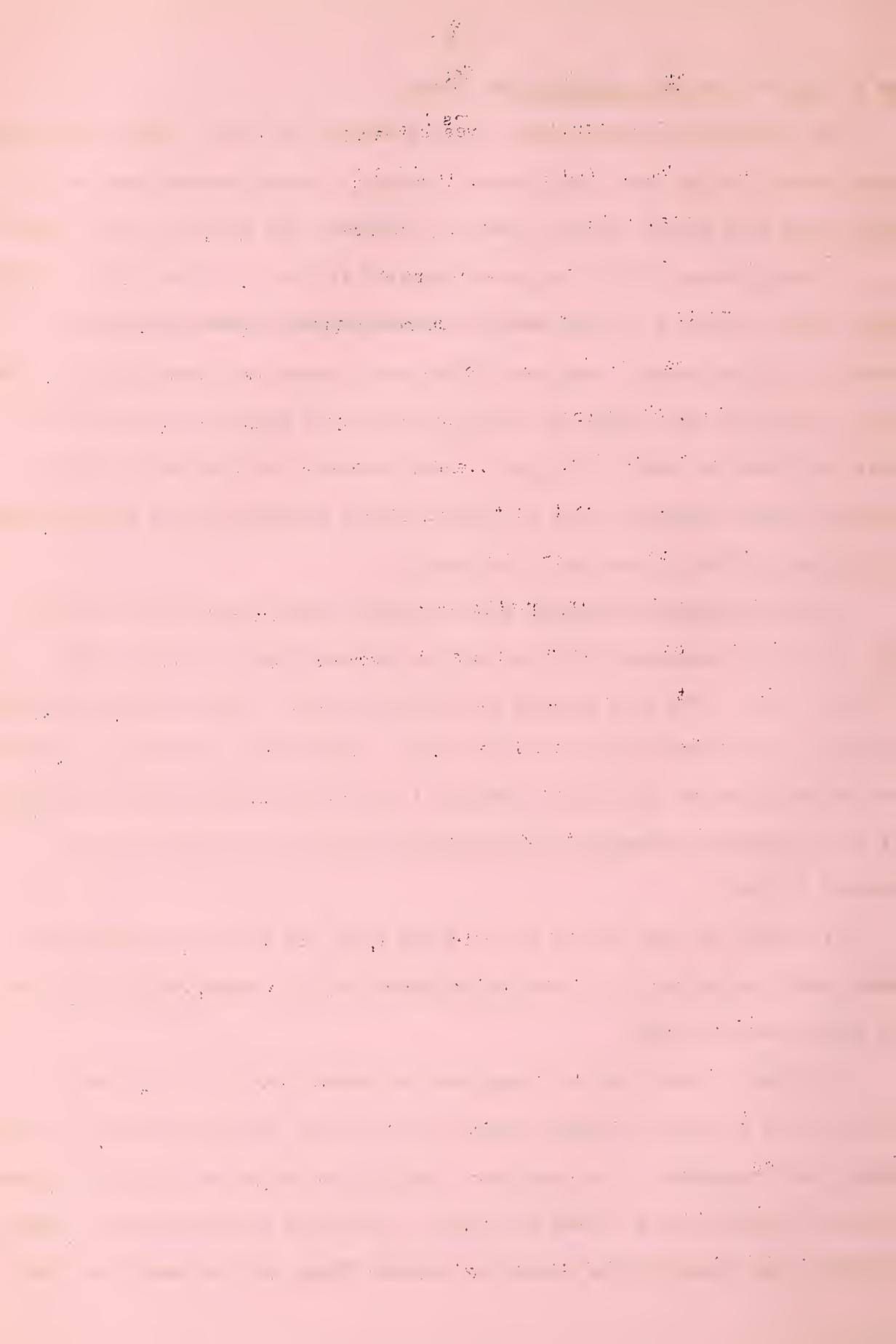
The Department of Agriculture gives 2 reasons for this. First, eggs are a high-protein energy food. And second, through a drying process eggs can be concentrated into powder, which is easy to preserve, and ship in a small space.

A large amount of dried eggs was exported in 1941. In the first 7 months of Lend-Lease shipments of food almost a hundred million dozen eggs went to England in various forms? Some were dried, some frozen, and others sent in the shell. But all in all, about one egg out of every 40 produced in the United States last year was sent to England.....and remember food shipments didn't start until early spring. Since that time they've constantly been getting larger. And a larger portion of them are dried eggs.

Dried eggs ~~have~~ 3 outstanding qualities that makes them valuable as war food. They only weigh one-fourth as much as the same amount of fresh eggs. They keep better. Yet they contain the same food value -- the minerals, proteins, and most of the vitamins found in whole eggs. Facilities for drying eggs are 4 times as large now as they were a year ago in the United States, and the Department of Agriculture estimates that 200 million pounds of dry eggs will be processed in 1942.

Of course the army uses a lot of dried eggs, but it's only logical to assume that a large portion of our egg shipments to the United Nations will be in a dried form this year.

It's hard to say just how large our egg exports will be by the end of 1942, but keep in mind the United States is one of the 26 United Nations, who are pooling their resources to win this war. And our resources for food production have been pledged in this united war effort. Secretary of Agriculture, Claude R. Wickard, has reassured the country by saying, "Eggs will be very plentiful



this year, and should be well within the reach of everyone's pocketbook."

Indications are that farmers won't have much difficulty in reaching this egg goal, because egg production was on the increase all during 1941. It increased so much that by this past December production was at a record high. It was 15 percent greater than it had been for the average of the 5 Decembers before.

The nation's flock of laying hens is larger today than it has been at any time since 1930, and each hen is laying more eggs.

So the outlook for eggs this year is better than for some other foods... It looks as if you'll be able to get at least as many eggs as you did last year, and even so have enough for the United Nations.

So much for egg news. Next week's news will be about this year's milk supply.

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